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〈詠の二十四〉

水面に童子たはむれ
やがて狼の情を待ち
終には水遠く成る

アフタヌーンKC
KC548

# 無限の住人

## 24

沙村広明

講談社

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アフタヌーンKC

# 銀の狼

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# 沙村広明

24

沙村広明

# 無限の住人

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# 明風花

CHAPTER: 156
SNOWFLAKES AT DAYBREAK

……

SADA-
MASA-
SAMA
…

WHAT A NICE MESS...

SUKEZANE BARO, NO...

SUKEZANE SHIDA.

SADAMASA -SAMA..

... DO YOU KNOW THIS GUY?

IF THIS GUY...

!?

...HADN'T GONE ASTRAY. HE WOULD BE YOUR SUPERIOR.

I ONCE ADMIRED YOU, BUT NOW YOU'RE PART OF ITTO-RYU

I COULD COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS THE WHOLE TIME

LAUGH NOW...

HA...

I COULD COMPLAIN ABOUT THAT THE WHOLE TIME.

DID YOU KNOW ...

...THAT TSUKIJI KILLED HERSELF UNDER TORTURE?

YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...?

I LOOKED FOR HER OVER AND OVER AGAIN..

INSTEAD I COULDN'T FIND HER.

HABAKI'S MEN SIMPLY TOOK HER AWAY.

POOR TSUKIJI JUST LIKE A DIRTY WHORE...

YOUR FIANCÉE DIED BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO TELL US YOUR HIDEOUT!

YOU FILTHY DOG !!

..SHE HAD KILLED HER-SELF, BUT HER FACE WAS FULL OF PRIDE.

.... BUT IN THE END ...

IN DEATH, SHE ONCE AGAIN HAD THE NOBLE FACE I KNEW HER FOR.

YES...

...IT'S INEXCUSABLE THAT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HOW SHE DIED!

...THEN YOU WOULD HAVE FOUND DEATH BY YOUR OWN HAND INSTEAD OF CAUSING THIS MASSACRE HERE!

IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH A PIECE OF SHIT..

...AND IF YOU STILL HAD A SPARK OF HUMANITY INSIDE YOU...

IT'S ENOU-GH.

AM I RIGHT, SUKE-ZANE?!

HE'S WORTHLESS!

HE'S NEITHER MOVED BY HIS OWN PAIN NOR BY THE PAIN OF ANYBODY ELSE

HANABUSA-SAN WANTED A LIVING CAPTIVE.

POINTLESS! THIS GUY WON'T TALK EVEN IF WE CUT HIM INTO PIECES!

B-BUT ... SADAMASA-SAN

I don't care Who just finish him!

Kill him !!

AM I RIGHT?

YES ..

Kill him !!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

IT REMINDS ME TOO MUCH OF OUR CHILDHOOD.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT.

.....

I, SEIGEN ONODERA ...

... TAKE THE LIBERTY OF CARRYING OUT THE EXECUTION

WON'T WORK ON ME

I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING

BUT WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO

ANY LAST WORDS?

W

OKAY. THEN THINK ABOUT IT

WHAT-EVER!!

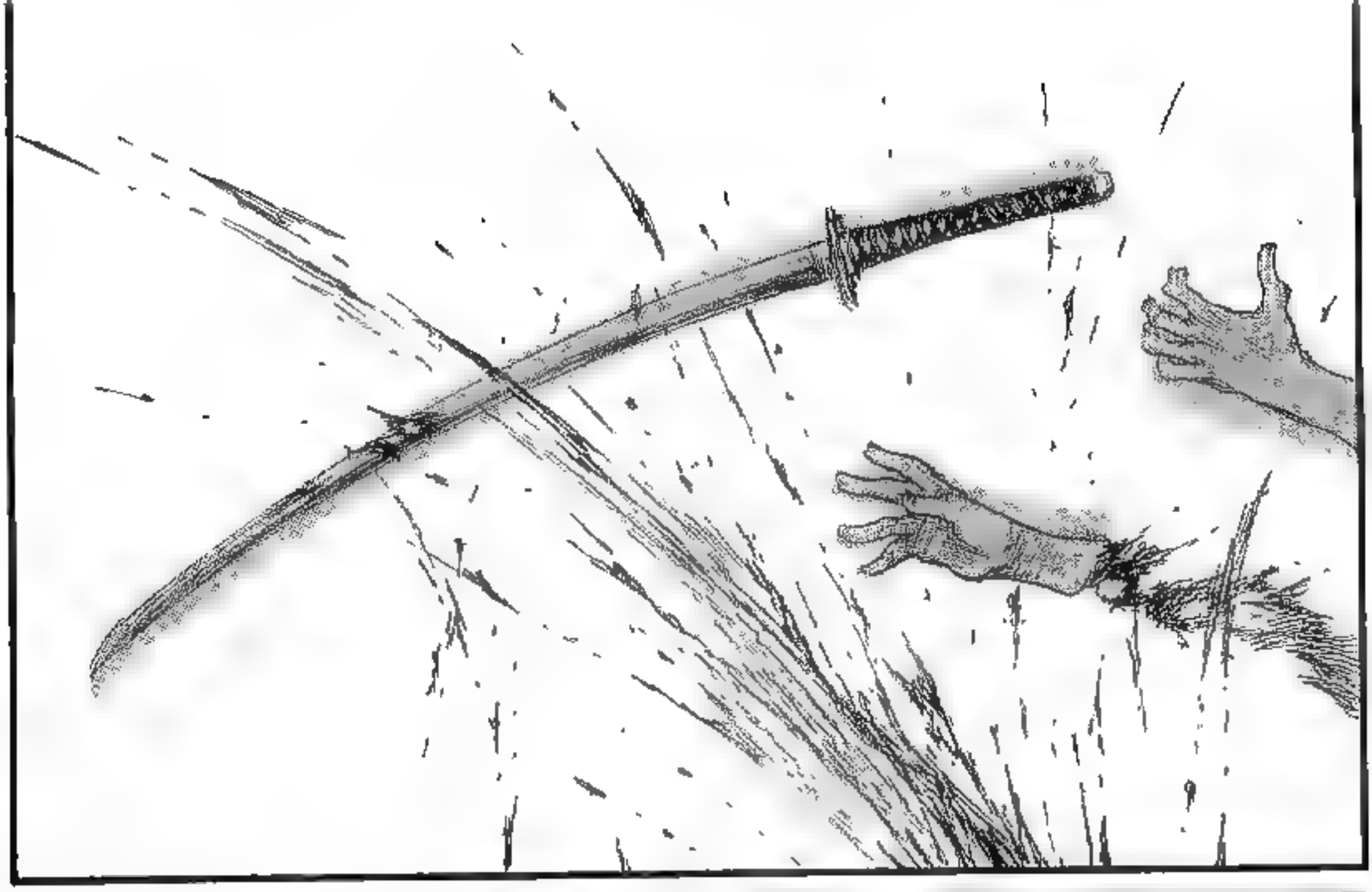
SO ?

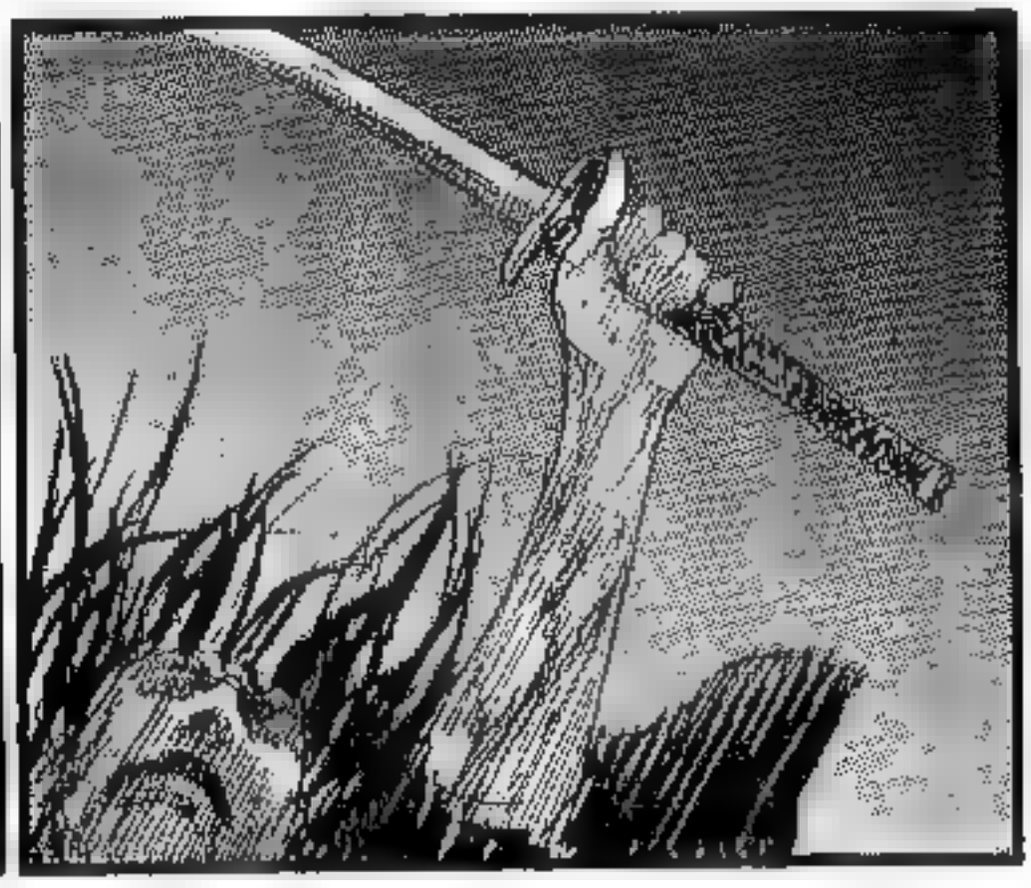
MISS YOUR CHANCE

IF YOU

YOU ONLY HAVE A VERY SHORT TIME TO STRIKE AN INTO-EYU FIGHTER

あ AHH!



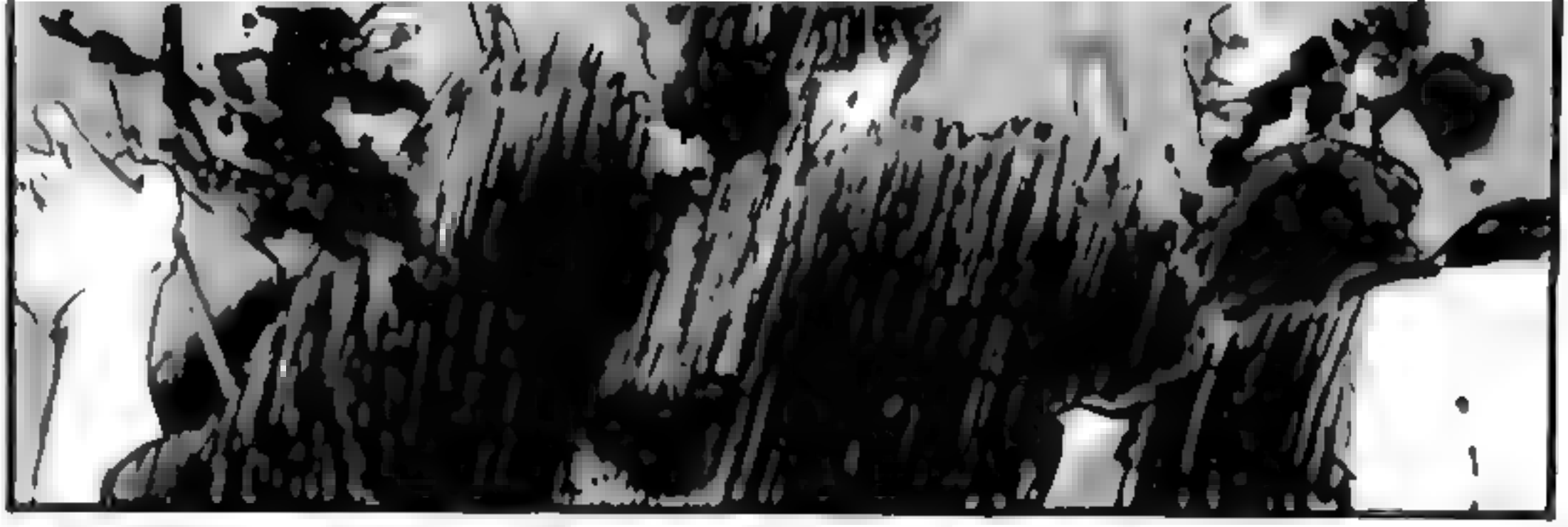


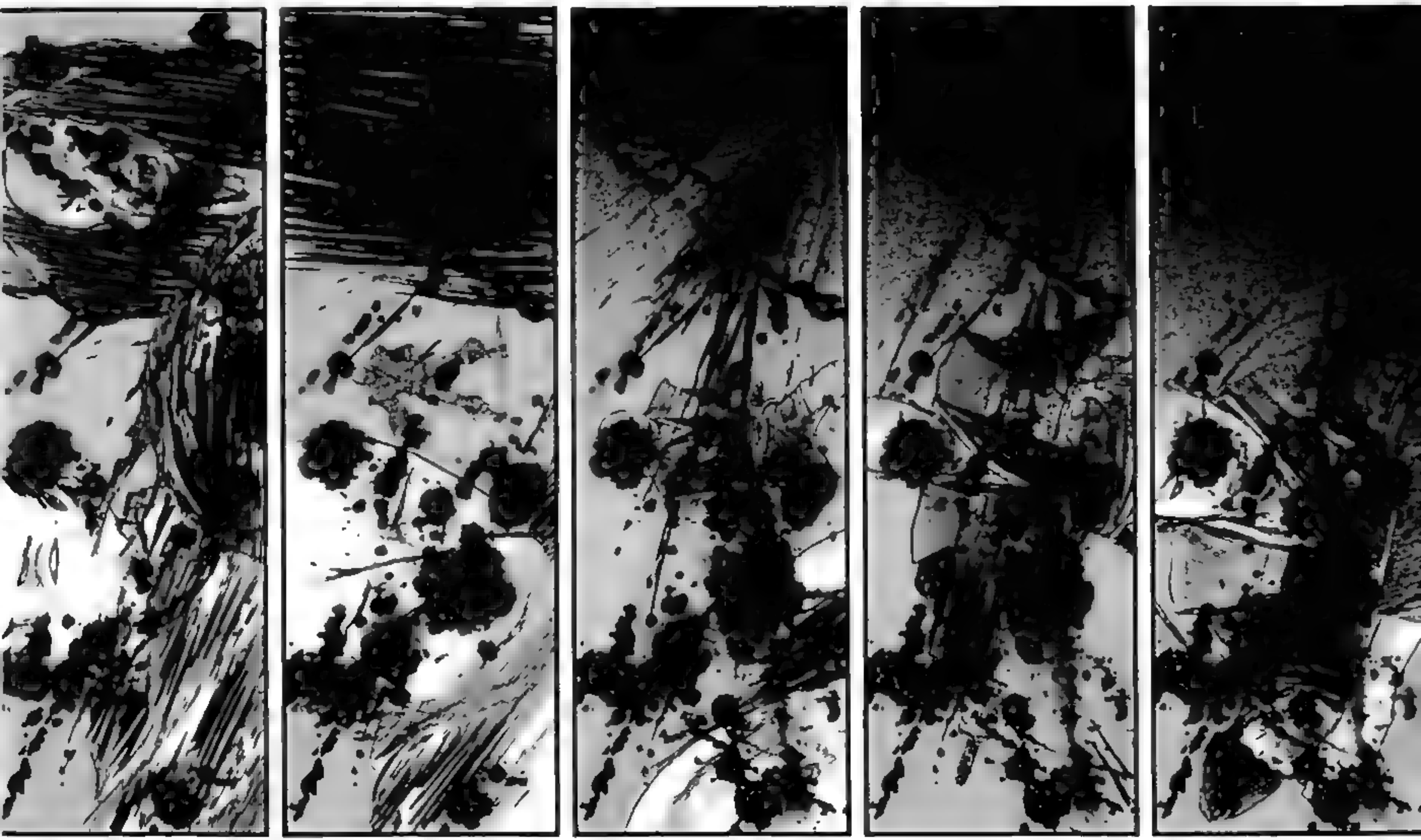
THAT BAST-ARD!

SHIT!!

KYAAA!!

HAHH!!





SKEWANE!!!

かつて一人の逸刀流が

There was an Itto-Ryu fighter....

統主に辞意を告げ去っていく姿を見た事がある

...who announced his resignation to the leader and went away...

彼はある男にこういうたという

He said that a man once told him...

...that if he wanted to become stronger than anybody else...

必失一番大切なものさえ失くす覚悟がと必要だ

...he had to leave everything he

Thinking about this now, makes me realize...

He couldn't forget these words. He began to fear the true meaning of them. At that moment...

...regardless of how high my ambitions were...

...he knew that his existence as a swordsman was over.

何もない Nothing...

Sukezane Baro has no past to lose to pain his heart

...Nothing at all...

Nothing...

The moon

AH, I'VE SLEPT SO WELL!

JEEZ, IT'S SO COLD TODAY.

MY BODY'S SHIVERING WITH COLD!

IT'S HARDLY SURPRISING IN THAT OUTFIT... !

THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR HELP YESTERDAY.

WHAT?! BUT...

....IT WASN'T A BIG DEAL.

I HAVE TO CHATCH UP WITH MEGURO AGAIN!

I WONDER IF I CAN MAKE IT...?

DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE WANTS TO GO?

YES, TO THE PALACE. I HAVE TO...

HUH?

WHAT IS MEGURO DOING HERE?

BUT, ISN'T THAT ...?

YOU'VE GOT GOOD EYES!

YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S HER!

THERE!

WHAT HAPPENED?

GWAH!

HEY! HEY!

I SEE. WHILE BOTH WERE PASSED OUT ...

YOU KLUTZ!

I FELL AND GRAZED MY HANDS...

SHUT UP!

Hasaki and the others have already passed Kokaigawa road!

SHIT!

YOU WERE SLEEPING TOO!

HEY, THAT'S NOT FAIR!

That's because you slept all day!

AH, I'M SORRY!

I STILL HAVE A LOT TO DO...

NEXT, I'LL TAKE TOKAI ROAD

WILL YOU RETURN TO EDO?

IF I RETURN ...?

BUT I HAVE DEVOTED MY LIFE TO PROVE THE OPPOSITE.

YOUR NEW LOOK ISN'T BAD.

YOU COULD BE A MONK.

IF YOU COULD SAVE MORE LIVES WITH THE TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA THAN WITH MEDICAL STUDY..

SEE YOU!!

WELL ...

IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO!.

SO MANJI IS THE HUNDRED MAN KILLER.

HM?

THINKING ABOUT IT ...

HUH? WHY?

IT'S NOT OUR JOB TO FIND THE HUNDRED MAN KILLER

SHOULDN'T WE REPORT THAT TO HABAKI?

THAT'S TRUE.

YES!

BUT THOSE TWO SAVED OUR LIVES!

BACK WHEN HE LIVED AT MASTER SORI'S PLACE, I WISHED HIM THE DEVIL ON HIS NECK... AND RIN TOO...

MANJI ISN'T THAT BAD AS HABAKI SAID.

THAT'S YOUR FAULT!

CHAPTER 156 END

SNOW FALLING LIKE SAKURA

## ❖第百五十七幕❖

# 雪花

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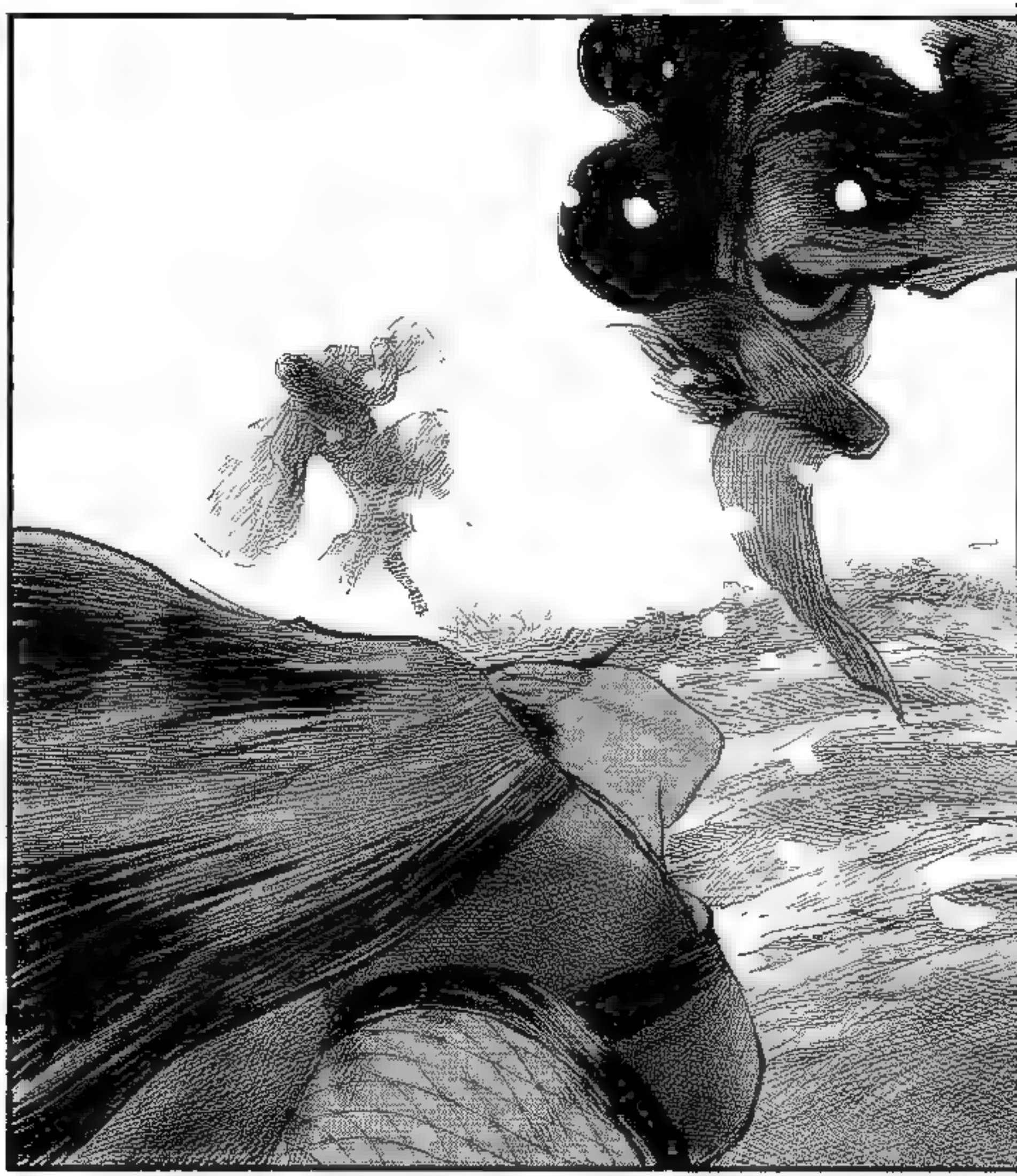


PUUH...

AH ...!

WHO ARE YOU?!

YOU'RE SHIRA, AREN'T YOU...?

FROM MUGAI-RYU?

HM?

AGAIN?

WHAT'S GOING ON? SINCE WHEN AM I THAT FAMOUS?

DAMN..

WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE.

HABAKI ...?

HUH? AH, YES..

HABAKI SAID ...

SAY..

... DIDN'T YOU JUST TALK ABOUT MANJI AND RIN?!

WE'RE IN A HURRY...

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

THAT REALLY SCREWS UP MY MOOD.

YOU BOTH DID TALK ABOUT THEM, RIGHT?!

SHALL I KILL YOU?!

I DON'T KNOW, I HAVE A MEMORY LIKE A SIEVE.

HUNTING THE HUNDRED MAN KILLER ISN'T OUR JOB.

IT'S TRUE.

I KNOW.

MEGURO ...

AS NINJA, YOU'RE FASTER THAN ROKKI-DAN, SO IT'S POSSIBLE YOU MIGHT MEET HIM SOONER

IT'S ABOUT A CERTAIN MAN NAMED SHIRA...

I ALREADY TOLD YOU ABOUT MUGAI-RYU. SHIRA WAS ONE OF THEIR THREE BEST FIGHTERS.

HE WAS IMPRISONED IN THE PALACE'S DUNGEON, BUT GOT FREE DURING THAT CHAOS.

SINCE HE'S HELL-BENT ON KILLING THE HUNDRED MAN KILLER, I LET IT BE.

IF HE KILLS SOMEBODY, HE DOESN'T JUST TAKE THEIR LIFES.

LISTEN! THIS MAN IS A BEAST.

IF YOU RUN ACROSS SHIRA AND HE ASKS YOU ABOUT THE HUNDRED MAN KILLER ...

..JUST TELL HIM WHAT HE WANTS TO KNOW.

BUT YOU ...

...MUST NOT SHOW ANY SLIGHT EMOTION, EVEN IF IT LACERATES YOUR HEART.

MAYBE YOU'VE GOT BAD LUCK AND YOU'LL SEE THE REMAINS OF ONE OF HIS SLAUGHTERS WITH YOUR VERY OWN EYES.

HE WILL TURN YOU INTO THE TOYS OF HIS DISGUSTING DESIRES

OTH-ER-WISE...

ACT AS OBEDIENT AS YOU WOULD IN FRONT OF ME OR ROKKI-DAN.

Hey, don't you hear me!!

Just tell me what you know, you stupid sods!

...

IF YOU DON'T OPEN YOUR MOUTHS SOON...

... YES, WE KNOW MANJI

... I WILL MOST LIKELY FORGET THAT I'M STILL WORKING FOR HABAKI!

THEY'RE SURE ON THEIR WAY BY NOW.

IN A HOSTEL IN USHIKU ... THEY WERE STILL THERE WHEN WE LEFT.

WE WERE WITH HIM AND RIN TILL THIS MORNING.

DON'T YOU DARE ESCAPE, MANJI!

WHAT HELD YOU BACK?

SEE, WAS IT THAT HARD?

Renzo! We're going!

ME-
GU-
RO
...

I DID THE
RIGHT
THING.

...
BUT I'D NEVER
FORGET MY
DUTY.

I MIGHT
BE A
STUPID
COW
...

WHAT A
CREEPY
GUY!

YOU REALL
Y DON'T
WANT TO
GET HIS
ATTENTION
...

LET'S
GO!

Y-YES
...

DAMNIT!

EX-
CUSE
ME!

PLEASE WAIT A SECOND

OH YES ABAYA-MA, I KNOW

WE MADE A RESERVA-TION UNDER THE NAME SOSUKE

EH, A MOMENT

WOULD YOU PREFER A KAGO? THERE YOU CAN SLEEP

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? NO THANKS NEVER AGAIN!

WITHOUT ANY SLEEP ON A HORSE?

WE'D HAVE TO CHANGE OUR HORSES WHENEVER WE CROSS A RIVER. THIS MAKES IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT

ON OUR WAY THERE ARE HARDLY ANY POST STA-TIONS THAT HAVE ENOUGH ANIMALS AVAILABLE

NEITHER DOMINICAN NOR [illegible] BY'S MAIN GROUP TRAVEL ON HORSE-BACK

IT SEEMS LIKE THOSE TWO ARE GOING TO DO THAT FOR US.

BUT RESERVING HORSES FOR FOUR PEOPLE IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM.

I'M AFRAID A LITTLE MISHAP HAP-PENED ...

WHAT'S WRONG ?

EH, PARDON ME.

WHY DOES IT TAKE THAT LONG?

WHERE IS THAT IDIOT?!

NO NEED, THERE IS NO TIME.

GO, TELL THE GENTLE-MEN WHAT

... TO AN-OTHER TRAV-ELER.

THE GIRL GAVE ONE OF THE HORSES, WHICH WAS RESERVED FOR YOU...

BUT HE WAS ON HIS WAY IN SERVICE OF THE SHOGUNATE

I TOLD THE MAN THAT THE HORSE WAS RE-SERVED.

BUT YOUR WORK ETHIC LEAVES A LOT TO BE DESIRED.

I'M TER-RIBLE SORRY ...

SINCE OUR PLAN CHANGED AND WE'RE NOW IN TWO'S, TWO HORSES WILL DO.

Y-YES ...

A SER-VANT OF THE SHO-GU-NATE?!

BUT ...

... I WANT TO KNOW IF ANOTSU IS ON THE MITO ROAD AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!

A KAGO ... ... ISN'T THAT A LITTLE BIT OVER THE TOP?

FOR A LITTLE GIRL YOU SOMETIMES SAY DAMN BRILLIANT THINGS.

... AND WE COULD TRAVEL OVERNIGHT

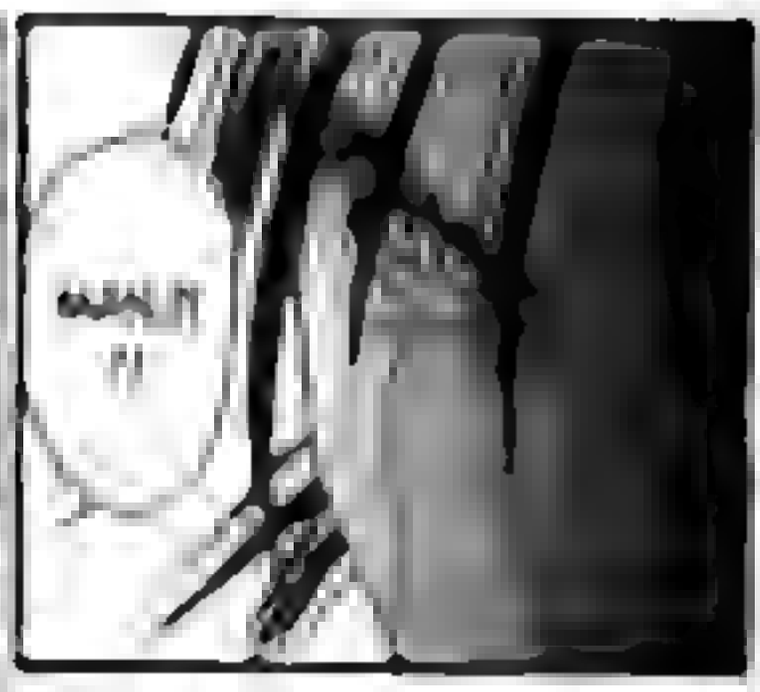
IF WE TRAVEL BY KAGOS WE CAN SAVE OUR STRENGTH ...

WHY'ST HAT?

BESIDE THAT, WE WERE VERY FRUGAL. AND THIS WAY WE WON'T NEED MONEY FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS!

OKAY

WE'LL TAKE THEM.



HEY!!
THIS...
THIS ISN'T A FLEA! CLOSE THAT!

I DON'T HAVE GOOD MEMORIES OF FLEAS

...
WHEN I WAS DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR RIN.

LAST TIME I USED ONE WAS IN KAGA...

THINKING ABOUT IT...

WHEN HE WAS ATTACKED BY ASSASSINS DRESSED UP AS CARRIERS.

AND THEN THAT STORY ABOUT MAGATSU ...

HOPPA !!

THAT GUY IS A LOST CAUSE ...

DAMN, HE SHOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT BEFORE!

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN MUGAI-RYU?

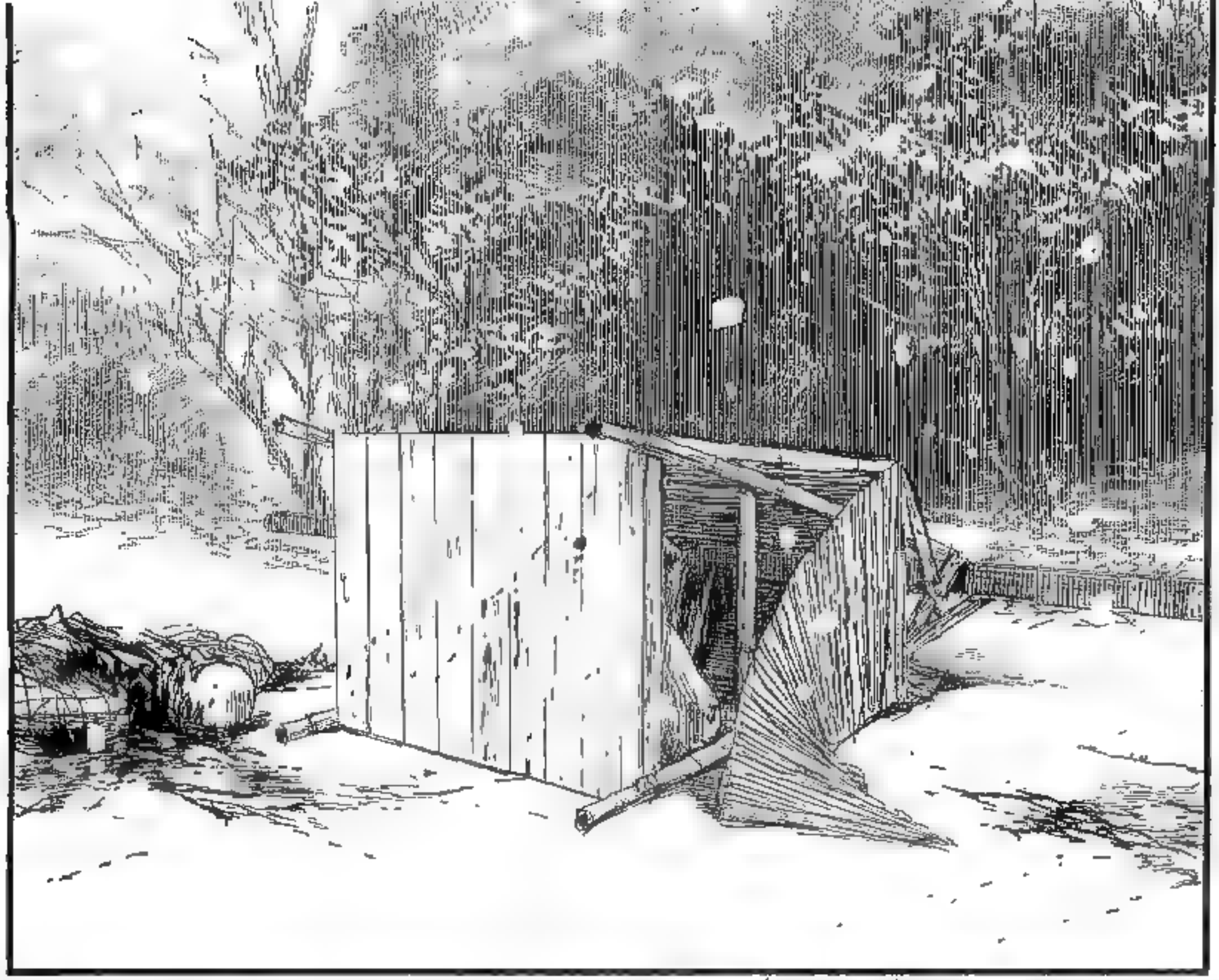
MAN, I'M TIRED ...

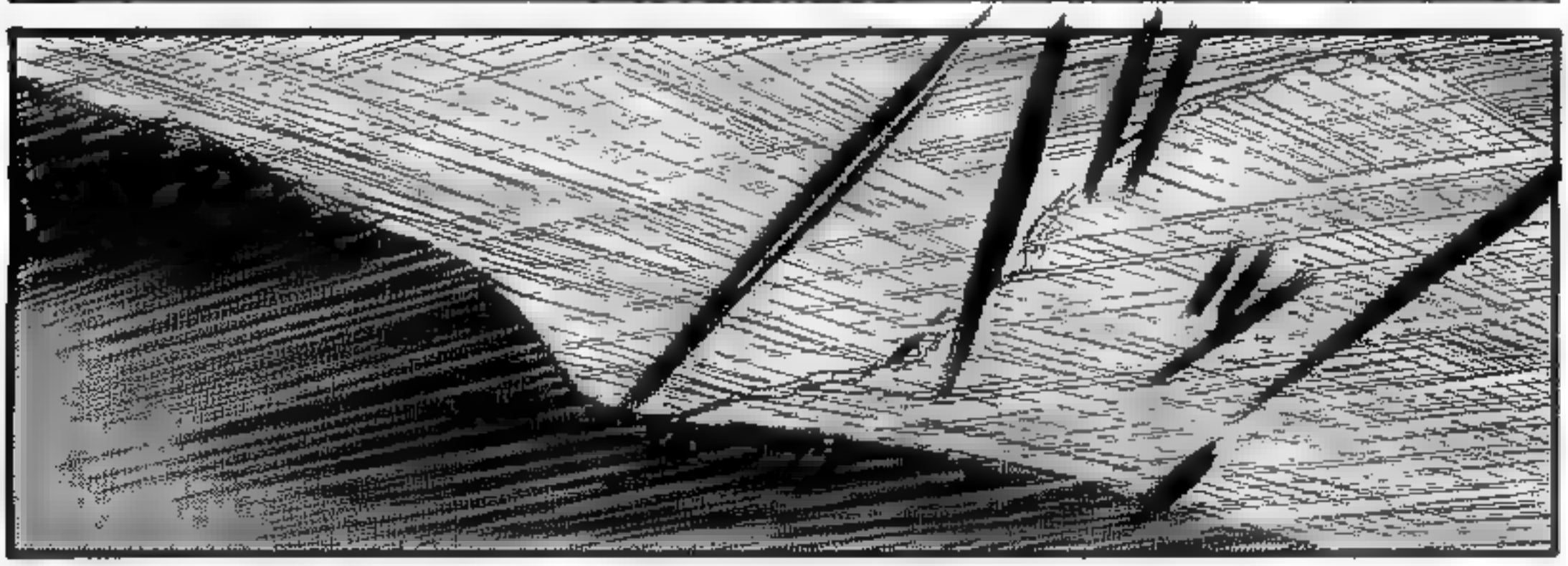
IS THE KAGO STILL MOVING?

...IT'S STANDING ON THE GROUND.

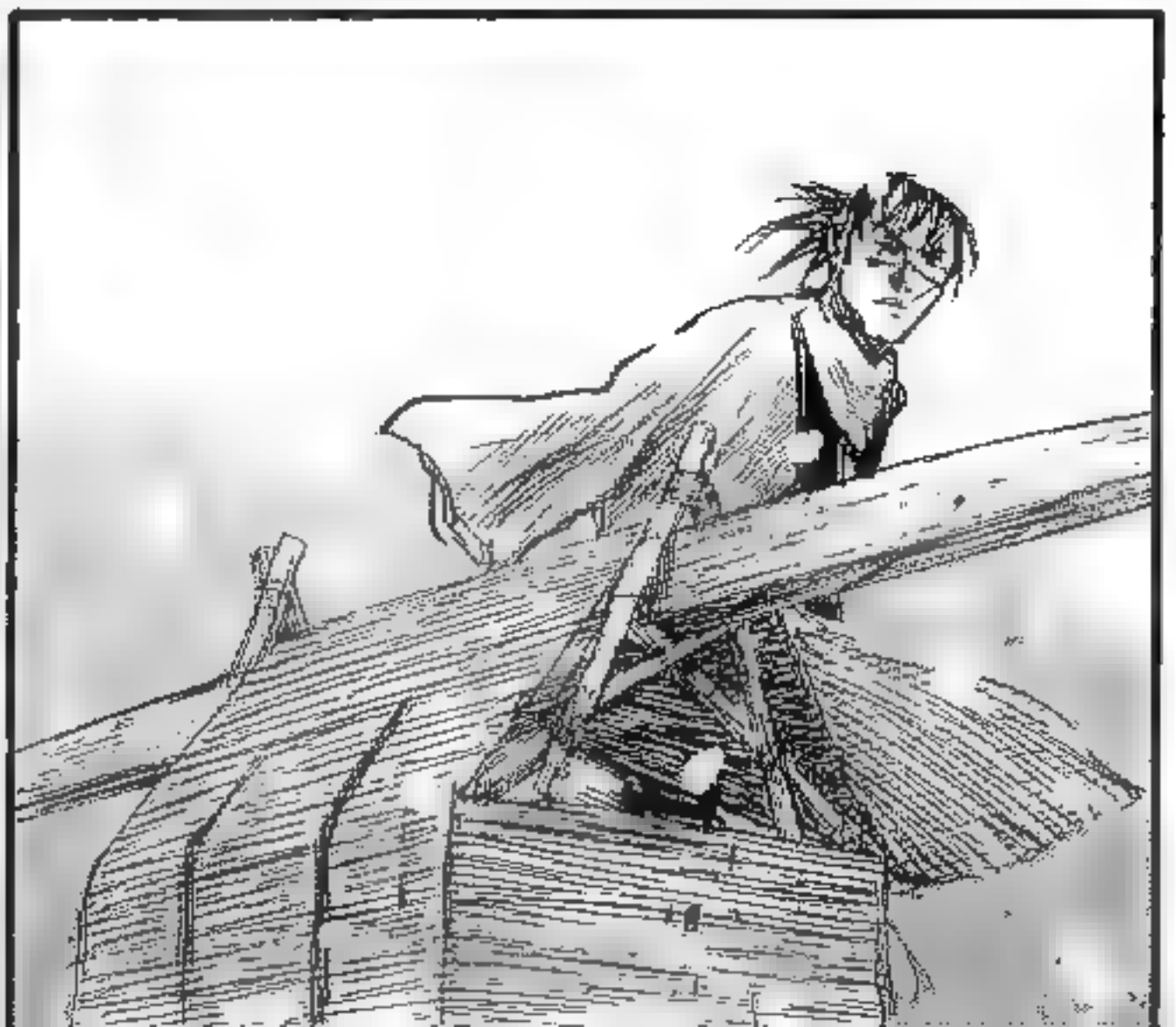
NO ...

...





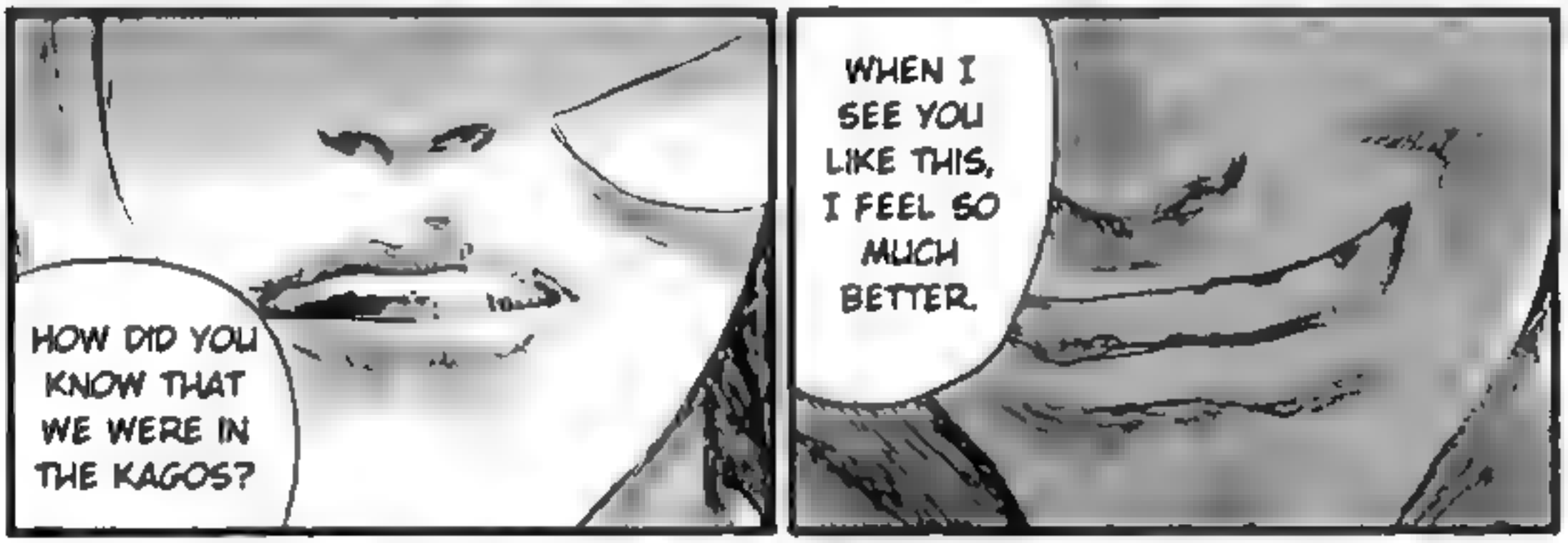
WHAT ...?!
.....



ME DOWN !!!!

PUT ...

HNHG!!!


HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT WE WERE IN THE KAGOS?
WHEN I SEE YOU LIKE THIS, I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER.

ON MY WAY TO USHIKU I CAME ACROSS THESE TWO KAGOS.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
I CAME TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR STAY IN USHIKU.

I THOUGHT: WHO KNOWS? MAYBE IT'S YOU TWO

...

AND SO I KILLED THE CARRIERS JUST TO BE SURE.

AND WHAT DID I FIND? YOU!

SO I WAS RIGHT !!!!

CHAPTER 157 END

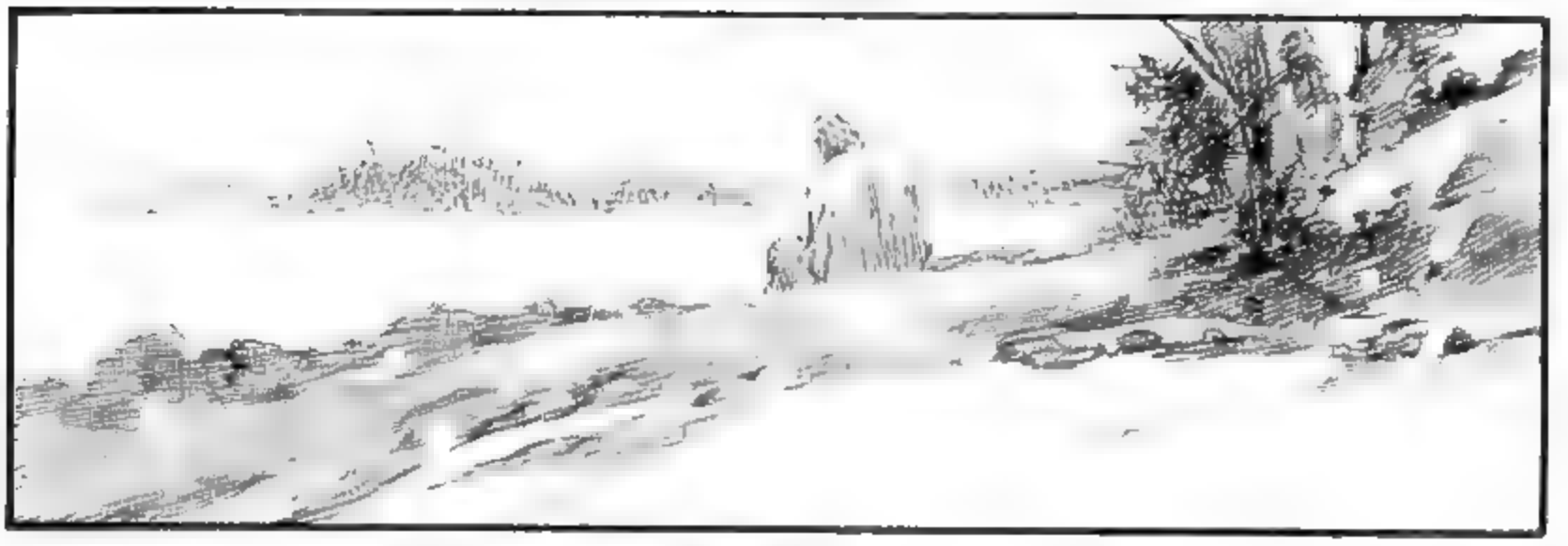
DAMN YOU!! KAGAHISA ANOTSU!

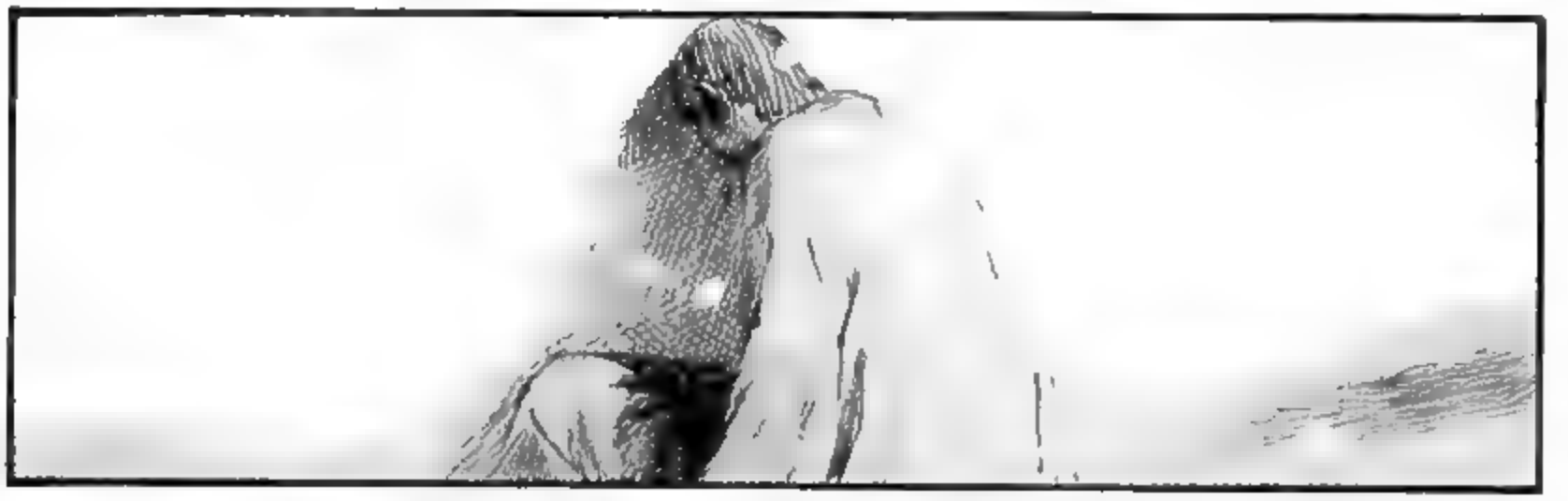
.....

AND YOU TOO, MANJI!

シャク.

シャク.

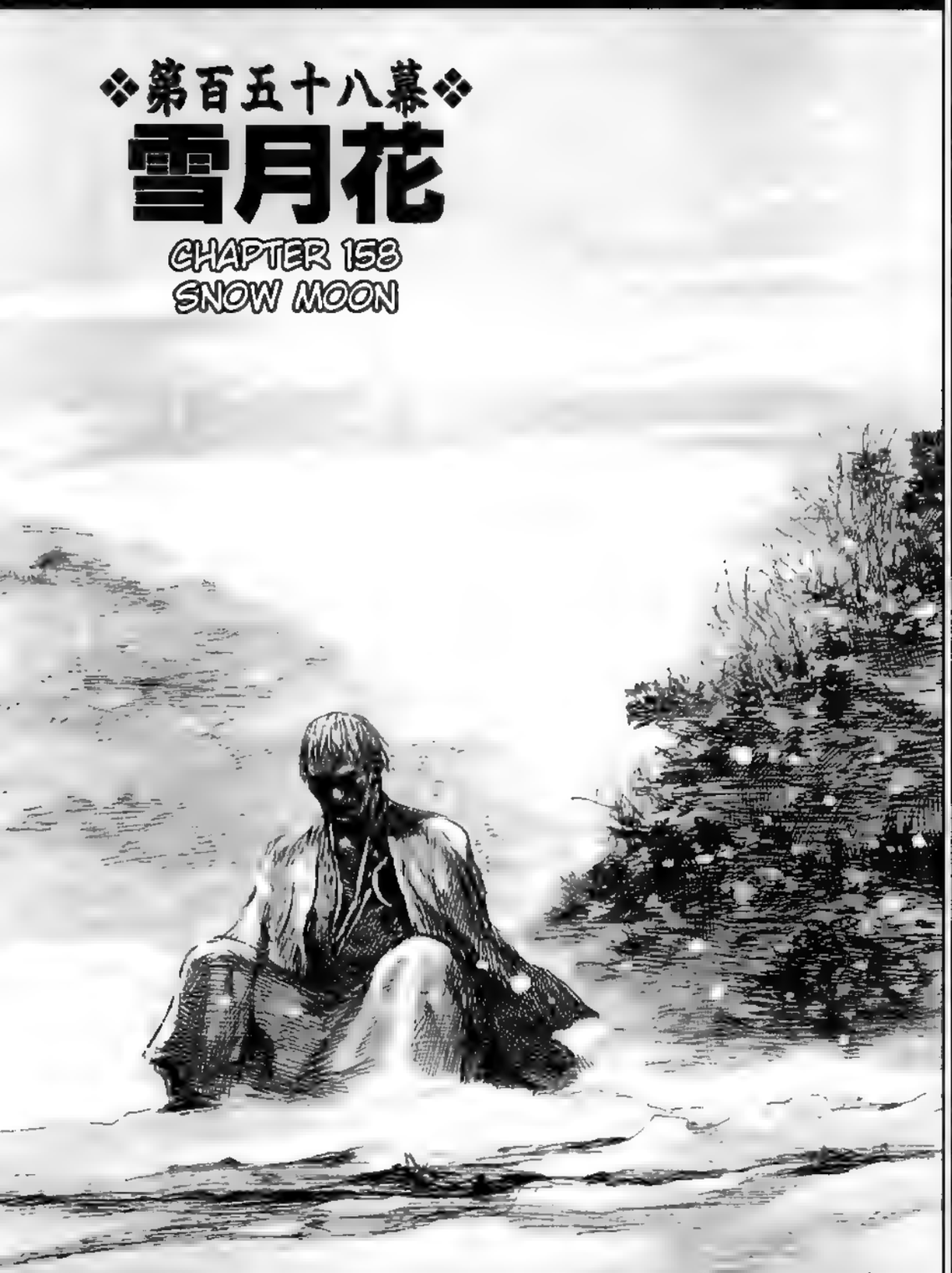




❖第百五十八幕❖

# 雪月花

CHAPTER 158
SNOW MOON



AS SOON AS MY HEADACHE IS GONE I WANTED TO LOOK FOR YOU.

IT'S GOOD YOU FOUND ME.

AT LEAST I KNEW THE DIRECTION.

I TOOK A CHANCE ON WHERE TO LOOK.

"HIDE"? HA, HA, HA...!

WHERE DID YOU HIDE RIN?

YOU COULDN'T MISS THE TRAIL OF BLOOD.

I'VE ALREADY KILLED HER!

YOU'RE FUN!

THAT DAMSEL.*

*That young girl

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.

SO IT'D BE LESS FUN FOR YOU.

BUT YOU KNEW THAT I'D LOOK FOR RIN.

YOU'RE TURNED ON BY TORTURING WOMEN TO DEATH...

THEN YOU COULD PURSUE YOUR PLEASURE QUIETLY

YOU WANT TO KILL ME FIRST...

...SO THAT I'M OUT OF YOUR WAY.

BWAHA-HAHA!

OK, I SURRENDER. YOU'RE RIGHT.

HA, HA!

...THAN THE GUYS OF MUGAI-RYU.

YOU UNDER-STAND ME BETTER...

WELL, WE'RE BOTH MURDERERS.

INDEED, YOU GUESSED RIGHT...

BUT ACTUALLY ...

YOU KNOW, MANJI...

...SOMETIMES YOU'RE QUITE NAIVE.

SHE MIGHT BE ALIVE ... BUT ACTUALLY ...

THAT'S A SHAME, YOU GOT IT!

...ISN'T THAT IMMATURE LITTLE GIRL.

WHAT I AM ACTUALLY INTERESTED IN...

...I WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED KILLING HER INSTANTLY.

...IT'S YOU I AM INTERESTED IN, MANJI.

NO...

IS THAT SO...?

SILLY QUES-TION!

WHERE RIN IS... OF COURSE!

AND THAT IS?

...THAT YOU'RE NOT THAT TYPE OF GUY THAT TALKS BECAUSE OF THREATS.

I KNOW...

THEN I WANT TO KNOW ONE THING FIRST...

THAT'S WHY...

...I'LL PLAY YOUR GAME.

IN OTHER WORDS ...

SHIRA...

...WE'LL FIGHT THE WHOLE THING OUT, HERE AND NOW.

...BEFORE YOU TELL ME WHERE SHE IS, THEN EVERYTHING IS LOST.

GET IT?!

IF I KILL YOU...

I DON'T KNOW THE WAY YOU SEE IT...

...BUT FOR ME "VICTORY" MEANS THAT YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIGHT AGAIN.

SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY?

OR SHOULD I TRY TO CUT OFF YOUR DICK?

...OR A LEG... OR TWO.

SO I COULD CHOP THAT CRAPPY ARM OFF...

...WHEN I SAID YOU'RE NAIVE.

THAT'S WHAT I MEANT...

YOU KNOW ...

HFFF...

LET ME TELL YOU ONE THING...

...IDIOT!

IT'S ABOUT WHO'S GONNA...

...SURVIVE THIS FIGHT.

THAT'S THE MEANING OF FIGHTING IT OUT! GOT IT?!

YOU WON'T COME FAR WITH THAT HALF-ASSED ATTITUDE.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOUR GIRL IS...

IF YOU HURT HIM, HE'LL TELL YOU INSTANTLY WHERE SHE IS

DO YOU SEE THAT BOY OVER THERE?

...YOU HAVE TO ASK SOMEONE ELSE.

AAH...
.....

ARAYA'S BOY...
SO, IT'S YOU...?

ドン！

ドン

!?

ゴッ

KCH ..!

ドン!

HNGH..

ハ゛ハ゛ハ゛

HA!

KOF
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KOF
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UFF
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UFF
...

HA
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HA
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HA
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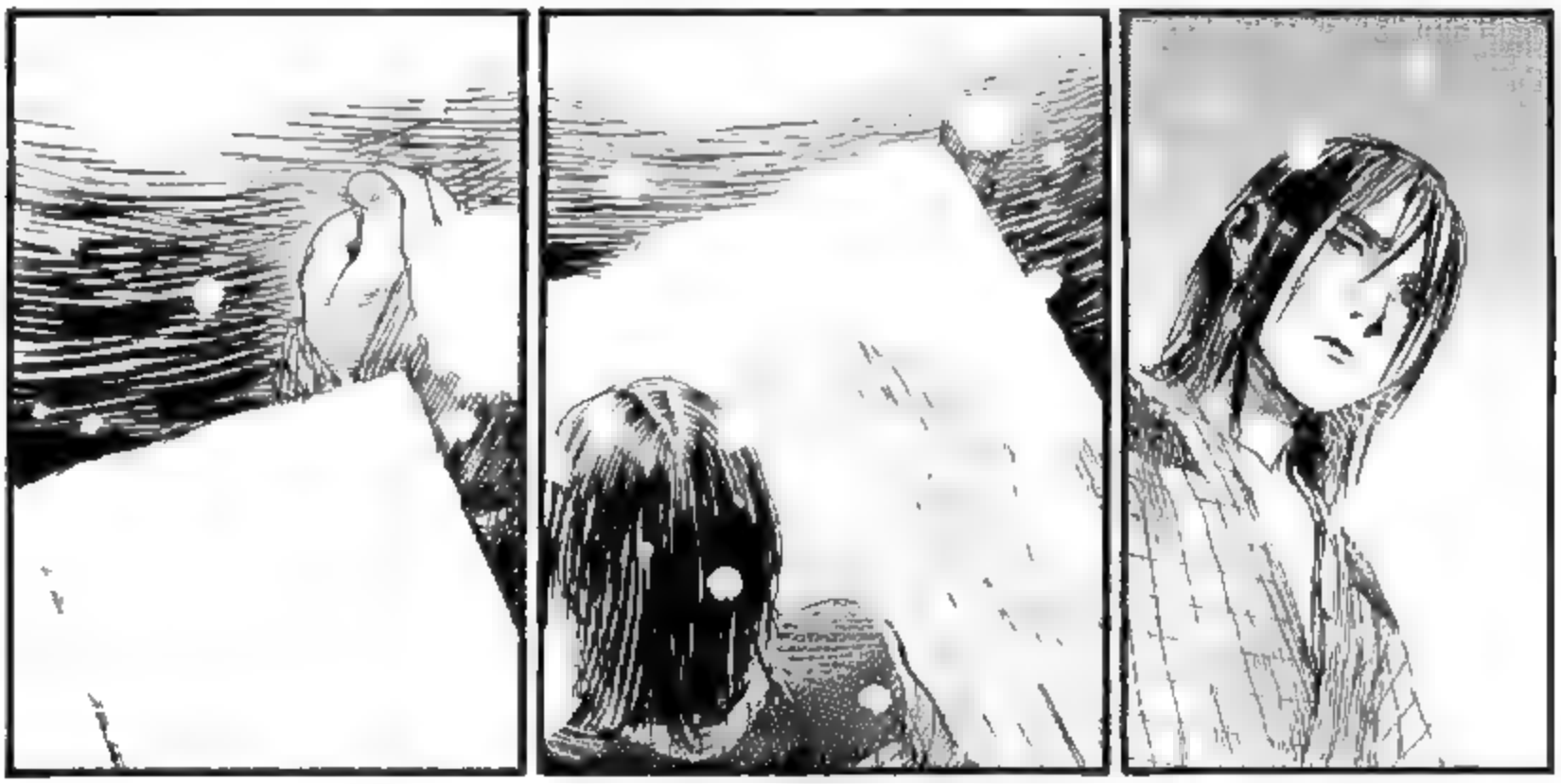
HA
..

HE CAME
...



KCH
...!

UNGH...!

CRUNCH

BORING!!

GWAAAAH!!

HA, HA, HA!

WELL, GOT IT?

CRAP!

THAT'S YOUR ARM!

LOOK!

I FIGHT BETTER WITH IT THAN WITH MY OWN!

IT'S REALLY GREAT!

I CAN FEEL THE DIFFERENCE. THAT FEELING IS...

...THAT IS SOAKED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF KILLING

IT'S NOT ONLY THE SOUL... IT'S THE BODY...

OH YEAH?!

"THAT'S YOUR ARM" HE SAYS.

KCH ...!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MANJI?

HE, HE!

HNGH...

...CAN YOU LOSE LIKE THIS? HUH?!

HOW THE HELL...

YOU FUCKING ASSHOLE!

HRGH... BWAHAHAHA!

FINALLY I'M ABLE TO UNDERSTAND YOU!

SO THAT'S YOUR WORLD...

CHAPTER 158 END.